(19) Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

(11) EP 0 940 470 A2

(12) EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(43) Date of publication:
08.09.1999 Bulletin 1999/36

(21) Application number: **98660149.0**

(22) Date of filing: **29.12.1998**

(51) Int. Cl.[6]: **C12N 15/62**, C12N 9/88, C07K 14/62, C07K 14/47, G01N 33/564

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC NL PT SE
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

(30) Priority: **29.01.1998 US 15399**

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(54) A fusion protein and its use for the simultaneous detection of autoantibodies related to insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus

(57) The invention relates to a fusion protein having epitopes of at least two of the autoantigens glutamic acid decarboxylase (GAD65), islet cell antigen (IA2) and preproinsulin (PPINS) wherein said epitopes are connected with a linker peptide. The fusion protein must be able to bind to a solid phase.

The invention also concerns the cDNA, and a vector and cell comprising said cDNA. Furthermore, this invention relates to the use of said fusion protein in an immunoassay for the simultaneous detection of autoantibodies related to insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus.

EP 0 940 470 A2

Printed by Xerox (UK) Business Services
2.16.7/3.6

Description

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] This invention relates to a new fusion protein, its cDNA, and a vector and a cell comprising said cDNA. Furthermore, this invention relates to the use of said fusion protein in an immunoassay for simultaneous detection of autoantibodies related to insulin dependent diabetes mellitus.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The publications and other materials used herein to illuminate the background of the invention, and in particular, cases to provide additional details respecting the practice, are incorporated by reference.

[0003] GAD65, IA2 and insulin are pancreatic proteins produced by the beta cells (for review see Atkinson and Maclaren 1993). Autoantibodies to these proteins are detected in patients with insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus (IDDM) and healthy individuals at risk for developing the disease. More than 80 % of newly-diagnosed IDDM patients have antibodies against at least one of these proteins (Baekkeskov et al. 1982). The risk of diabetes in relatives of IDDM patients increases markedly when the number of autoantibodies detected in the serum increases (Bingley et al. 1994; Verge et al. 1994). In a group of high genetic risk, presence in serum of antibodies to one or more of these autoantigens predicted the disease onset accurately (Verge et al. 1996). Also permanently healthy subjects (as regards IDDM) may have temporarily or permanently antibodies against one of the three antigens, but antibodies against multiple antigens occur extremely rarely. It is therefore sought to simultaneously determine reactivity against two or all three of the proteins, as the positivity for more than one of these autoantibodies remarkably increases disease risk (Bingley et al. 1994).

[0004] GAD65 (Bu et al. 1992) has several epitopes recognised by autoantibodies (Falorni et al. 1996). These are located mostly at the center and C-terminus of the molecule whereas the N-terminal quarter of the molecule is thought to contribute to membrane docking of the protein, and to contain few if any IDDM-informative epitopes (Falorni et al. 1996).

[0005] IA2 (also known as ICA512) (Rabin et al. 1994) is a transmembrane protein with still unknown function. The intracellular part of the molecule ($IA2_{ic}$, about 40 kDa) contains a domain with similarity to the active center of protein phosphatases (Fischer et al. 1991), but no enzymatic activity has been ascribed the IA2 molecule. The informative epitopes of IA2 reside in the cytoplasmic domain and herein they are concentrated at the C-terminal half (Lampasona et al. 1996; Zhang et al. 1997).

[0006] Insulin (Bell et al. 1980) is made by pancreatic β-cells as a precursor preproinsulin which is cleaved to proinsulin. The proinsulin is further processed to give the insulin consisting of A and B chains connected together with two disulphide bridges.

[0007] More than 20% of sera collected from newly-diagnosed IDDM-patients contain insulin autoantibodies (IAA) (Sabbah et al. 1996). As, however, the immunity to insulin may have arisen through formation of response to prepro- or proinsulins (Snorgaard et al. 1996), it is relevant to use these peptides in this assay system. Tolerance to this autoantigen may be induced by oral insulin feeding in non-obese diabetic (NOD) mice (Zhang et al. 1991).

[0008] In addition to linear epitopes, autoantibodies are thought to recognize important conformational epitopes resulting from the three-dimensional structure of the protein (Kim et al. 1993). Antigen molecules produced or assayed using techniques which destroy these structures are less informative as regards IDDM or prediabetes.

[0009] Several methods for detection of autoantibodies in IDDM sera have been elaborated. One method exploits in vitro transcription-translation for producing radioactively labeled autoantigen (IA2, GAD65) (Petersen et al. 1994), while in another method biotin-labeled GAD65 is added to the patient sera and after formation of immune complexes, free label is detected and quantitated (Mehta et al. 1996). These methods all suffer from suboptimal niveau of informativity, as they employ only one specific autoantigen. Moreover they have the drawbacks associated with the use of radiochemicals.

[0010] Using a protein molecule in which a combination of the epitopes from at least two but preferably three different autoantigens are represented should detect a larger panel of autoantibodies thus revealing more specifically the population of individuals at risk of developing the disease.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0011] According to one aspect, this invention relates to a new fusion protein having epitopes of at least two of the autoantigens glutamic acid decarboxylase (GAD65), islet cell antigen (IA2) and preproinsulin (PPINS) wherein said epitopes are connected with a linker peptide, said fusion protein being able to bind to a solid phase.

[0012] According to another aspect, the invention concerns a cDNA sequence encoding the said fusion protein.

[0013] According to a third aspect, the invention concerns a vector and a cell comprising said cDNA.

[0014] According to a fourth aspect, the invention concerns an immunoassay for the simultaneous determination in a sample of a person's body fluid of at least two insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus (IDDM) -related autoantibodies, wherein each autoantibody is specific for an epitope of the autoantigens glutamic acid decarboxylase (GAD65), islet cell antigen (IA2) or preproinsulin (PPINS). The immunoassay comprises the steps of

- incubating said sample with said autoantigens or, alternatively, with the fusion protein according to this invention, said autoantigens or said fusion protein being bound to a solid support,
- adding at least one labeled reagent capable of binding to one or more of said autoantibodies, and
- quantifying the signals from the labels bound to the solid phase.

[0015] According to still one aspect, the invention concerns a method for diagnosing a person's risk of developing insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus (IDDM), said method comprising the determination in a sample of said person's body fluid of at least two insulin dependent diabetes mellitus (IDDM) -related autoantibodies specific for an epitope of the autoantigens glutamic acid decarboxylase (GAD65), islet cell antigen (IA2) or preproinsulin (PPINS), wherein the presence of at least two of said autoantibodies are indicative for said person's risk of developing IDDM. The order of appearance of these autoantibodies is used to predict the time point of onset of the disease.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0016]

Figures 1a and 1b show the cDNA construct for a fusion protein according to this invention (flag peptide (SEQ ID NO: 1); Not I (SEQ ID NO: 2); poly-his (SEQ ID NO: 3) and Sgf I (SEQ ID NO: 4)),

Figure 2a shows the amino acid sequence of the IA2 protein SEQ ID NO: 5),

Figure 2b shows the amino acid sequence of the GAD65 protein (SEQ ID NO: 6),

Figure 2c shows the amino acid sequence of preproinsulin (PPINS) (SEQ ID NO: 7),

Figure 3 shows the fusion protein according to this invention attached to a solid support, autoantibodies attached to epitopes of said protein, and labeled reagents bound to said autoantibodies, wherein the reagents are labeled with different labels, and

Figure 4 shows the fusion protein according to this invention attached to a solid support, autoantibodies attached to epitopes of said protein, and labeled reagents bound to said autoantibodies, wherein the reagents are labeled with the same label.

[0017] The nucleotide sequence encoding GAD65 is SEQ ID NO: 8, the nucleotide sequence encoding IA2 is SEQ ID NO: 9 and the human insulin gene is SEQ ID NO: 10.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0018] The term "epitope" can be an amino acid sequence anything from very few (about 5 to 10) amino acids of the autoantigens up to the whole autoantigen. Preferable lengths of the epitopes are represented by the underlined amino acid sequences in Figures 2a and 2b, and the whole antigen sequence is disclosed in Figure 2c. Thus, the epitope of IA2 comprises preferably the amino acids 771-979 of the amino acid sequence shown in Figure 2a. Another preferred alternative is the whole intracellular domain (amino acids ranging from about 576 to 979 of the sequence in Figure 2a). The epitope of GAD65 comprises preferably the amino acids 102-585 of the amino acid sequence shown in Figure 2b, and the epitope of PPINS comprises preferably all the amino acids 1-110 of the polypeptide shown in Figure 2c. It should be noted that the above mentioned specific sequences are examples only.

[0019] According to a preferred embodiment, the fusion protein has epitopes of each of the autoantigens GAD65, IA2 and PPINS. Such a fusion protein allows simultaneous detection of autoantibodies specific for any of said autoantigens.

[0020] Said fusion protein containing epitopes of GAD65, IA2 and PPINS is formed by combining these domains via short peptides consisting of amino acid residues, e.g. lysine and arginine residues.

[0021] The epitopes from distinct autoantigens will be linked together via short peptides containing e.g. several lysine residues, which allows preferential labeling of these lys-residues. For construction of the polygenic cDNA, the linker-

encoding cDNA contains a recognition site for a rarely cutting restriction enzyme such as Not I or Sgf I (see Figure 1a and 1b).

[0022] These linker residues may be connected to a member of an affinity binding pair so as to enable the binding of said fusion protein to a solid phase. The bioaffinity pair may be e.g. biotin - streptavidin. The residues (lysine) can be biotinylated after which the fusion protein is attached to a streptavidin-coated solid phase. The solid phase can e.g. be a well of a microtitration strip or plate. Alternatively, the solid phase consists of microparticles.

[0023] The fusion protein can alternatively be bound to the solid phase by direct adsorption. Furthermore, the fusion protein can be covalently linked to the solid phase. In this case the fusion protein must be provided with groups able to create a covalent bond with the solid phase.

[0024] Figures 2 and sequences SEQ ID NO: 8 - 10 show the amino acid sequences and the nucleotide sequences, respectively, of the preferred epitopes.

[0025] The following illustrates the construction of the fusion protein and its preparation.

[0026] The N-terminus of the hybrid protein and the single proteins will contain a flag peptide NH2-DYKDDDDK-COOH (SEQ ID NO: 1) with a free N-terminal amino group to allow recognition of the protein using M1 monoclonal antibody (ATCC cell line nr. HB 9259). This enables detection of the protein in SDS-PAGE where not all monoclonals function.

[0027] At the carboxy-terminal end of the fusion protein and in the single antigens a motif X-X-G-S-H-H-H-H-H-H (SEQ ID NO: 11) is introduced to allow purification of the protein with metal chelate affinity chromatography and detection with monoclonal antibody against this epitope (Cedarlane Laboratories Ltd, Canada).

[0028] The GAD65 gene (Bu et al. 1992) is, for example, amplified with PCR (nucleotides 1311-1755) in such a manner that 101 amino acid residues are removed from the N-terminus.

[0029] The 3' -end oligonucleotide contains 17 bases complementary to the mRNA of GAD65 and an additional sequence encoding half of a peptide forming the bridge between GAD65 and IA2 domains.

[0030] The nucleotide sequence of the bridge is for example

Not I

GAD65-AAGAAGAAGCGGCCGCGAAAGAAGAAG-IA2 (SEQ ID NO: 12; amino acid sequence of the peptide KKKRPRKKK (SEQ ID NO: 2)), or

Sgf I

GAD65-AAGAAGAAGCGATCGCGAAAGAAGAAG-IA2 (SEQ ID NO:13; amino acid sequence KKKRSRKKK (SEQ ID NO: 4)). The restriction enzyme recognition sites are underlined in the middle. The fragments are made from a plasmid harbouring said cDNAs with PCR and digested with appropriate restriction enzymes (e.g. Not I or Sgf I) and cloned into appropriate vectors. The GAD65 part is linked to IA2 and this to PPINS, using general cloning techniques.

[0031] The IA2 gene and the PPINS gene 5' -oligo contain half of the polylysine-arginine-encoding sequence with a Not I or Sgf I site for coupling to GAD65 and the IA2 gene 3'-end, respectively. The 3' -oligo of PPINS has a histidine hexapeptide-encoding sequence to enable antibody recognition and metal chelate chromatography purification and/or immobilization if necessary (Mauch et al. 1993).

[0032] Purified, restriction enzyme-treated PCR fragments are cloned in a FastBac derivative and E.coli DH10Bac cells are transfected with the plasmid. Recombinant clones are selected and DNA isolated and transfected into Sf9 insect cells.

[0033] Virus-producing cells are cultivated and stock virus made. Large-scale cultures are used to produce recombinant single proteins and the polyprotein.

[0034] SDS-PAGE/Western analysis is used to analyse size and immunoreactivity of the recombinant polyproteins. The proteins are blotted onto a nitrocellulose or nylon membrane and GAD/IA2/PPINS antibodies used to detect the product visualised with enhanced chemiluminescence, ECL.

[0035] For purification of the polyprotein GAD65-specific monoclonal antibody (GAD6, Developmental Studies Hybridoma Bank, Iowa University) is immobilized to Sepharose 4B activated with cyanogen bromide (Pharmacia, Uppsala, Sweden). Elution of the protein is performed at low pH (3-4) and solubility is achieved by adding detergents (e.g. Nonidet or Tween) to allow dissociation from for example residual cell debris. Alternatively, M1 antibody (ATCC cell line no. HB 9259) recognising the N-terminal flag epitope is coupled to Sepharose and the single proteins and the polyproteins are bound in the presence of calcium ions and elution is achieved via calcium depletion.

[0036] The steps from cloning to large scale production can be described in more detail as follows:

1. Cloning into the pK503-9 vector (Kari Keinänen VTT Finland), a derivative of pFastBac (Gibco BRL Paisley Scotland) of GAD65, or IA2 or PPINS gene, each containing a flag recognition signal (FLAG^R, Immunex Corporation) for antibody detection and a signal peptide for ecdysone glucotransferase (EGT) for transport into the endoplasmatic reticulum for removal of the signal peptide with simultaneous release of N-terminal aspartate for M1 antibody recognition. The constructs contain each a X-X-G-S-H-H-H-H-H-H carboxyterminal peptide (SEQ ID NO: 11) to allow metal chelate affinity purification and detection with specific antibody (Cedarlane, Canada) of the product.

2. Transformation into competent E. coli DH10Bac cells of the plasmids containing the single genes.

3. Isolation of recombinant Bacmid DNA and transfection with the fused DNA of the Sf9 or Hi-5 insect cells.

4. Production of recombinant stock virus.

5. Large scale production of the proteins.

6. Cloning into pK503-9 vector of a cDNA construct for the fusion protein (FP) comprising GAD65 (nt 1311-1755; aa 102-585)-IA2(nt 2313-2937; aa 771-979)PPINS (nt 2424-2610 and 3396-3539 (of the genomic DNA sequence, accession No. V00565); aa 1-110) in all alternative orders.

7. Transformation into competent E. coli DH10Bac cells of the plasmids containing the fusion protein.

8. Isolation of recombinant Bacmid DNA and transfection with the fused DNA of the Sf9 or Hi-5 insect cells.

9. Production of recombinant stock virus.

10. Large scale production of the fusion protein.

[0037] In case the baculovirus expression system does not work optimally, alternative systems such as E.coli, yeast, or in vitro transcription translation assay (Petersen et al. 1994) will be used for production of said polypeptides.

[0038] The present invention relates further to the use of the fusion protein in an immunoassay for the detection of several pancreatic beta-cell autoantibodies in IDDM patients and prediabetic sera. The assay may detect patients at risk of developing IDDM, i.e. having a pre-IDDM condition. As a multicomponent assay, the method could also be used to predict the time point of onset of the disease. The methodology which combines epitopes of several islet beta cell autoantigens increases the informativity and prediction value of the test aimed at prediction of risk and onset of disease in individuals genetically predisposed to IDDM.

[0039] In the immunoassay according to this invention, a sample of the person's body fluid (e.g. serum) is incubated with the fusion protein bound to a solid surface, e.g. a microtitration plate or solid gel beads. The bound autoantigens are thereafter detected with a labeled reagent. The reagents can be the single autoantigens GAD65, IA2 and PPINS; or proteins comprising epitopes thereof. These reagents are used to detect free antigen-binding regions (V-regions) on the bound autoantibodies. One variant of the method will be used for differential detection of the individual autoantigen specificities of the antibody in one assay if individual autoantigens (AAGs) labeled with three different labels are used (see Figure 3). Alternatively, when the polyprotein (the fusion protein) is labeled with only one label, it can be used to reveal the sum of these three reactivities in the sample (Figure 4). The same result is achieved if the single antigens are all labeled with the same label. The labeled reagent can further be an anti-human monoclonal antibody. In this case the assay can reveal only the sum of the three autoantibodies.

[0040] The technique which involves use of the label attached to the fusion protein or individual autoantigens circumvents several problems encountered in the conventional assays. First, there is little or no nonspecific binding to the vials due to the fact that the carrier surfaces have already been blocked with the corresponding antigen. Second, the attachment via a bioaffinity pair such as streptavidin/biotin interaction to the vial and use of a flexible peptide between the individual antigenic epitopes enable free motion and folding of the protein in the solution (Figure 4).

[0041] The label can be any suitable label. However, according to a preferred embodiment, the label is a lanthanide. In case three different labels are used, said labels can be e.g. Eu, Sm, Tb and Dy (Siitari et al. 1990; Hemmilä et al. 1993). In such a case the detection is based on time-resolved fluorescence.

[0042] The free labeled reagent can be removed after the incubation step before the signal is quantified (heterogeneous assay), or the signal can be quantified without foregoing removal of the free labelled reagent (homogeneous assay).

[0043] The procedures are preferably automatized. Automatization of the procedures involves laboratory robots which apply samples onto cover slips and the fluorescence is detected in an micro array system in an appropriate unit (Wallac OY, Finland).

[0044] The simultaneous detection of antibodies against the three autoantigens increases the capacity to process large sample series. The use of a micro array system substantially increases the capacity. This has become necessary as nationwide screenings of newborns are undertaken in several research centers.

[0045] The test principle using time-resolved fluoroimmunoassay (TR-FIA) offers an extremely sensitive means for detection of autoantibodies with minimum amount of nonspecific reactivity due to used specific antigen label. The longevity of the lanthanide label is also an advantage as compared to radiolabel.

[0046] The system allows retaining of important conformational epitopes of the antigen as immobilization of the polyprotein is via specific flexible intervening sequences and causes minimal tortion to the antigen.

[0047] The following illustrates the use of the fusion protein in an immunoassay:

[0048] To the polyprotein (fusion protein) biotin is bound in limiting conditions to prevent other than the lysine residues of the linker peptide to be biotinylated. Streptavidine-coated microscope slides are treated with biotin - fusion protein and the residual sites are blocked with bovine serum albumin or another suitable binding protein.

[0049] M1 flag-specific monoclonal antibody will be used to monitor binding onto solid support of free recombinant autoantigens while autoantigen-specific monoclonals (e.g. GAD1, GAD6, MICA-3 (Boehringer) etc.) will be used to detect availability of specific epitopes. After incubation with sample sera, Eu-labeled GAD65, Sm-labeled IA2 and Tb-labeled PPINS (produced as a single protein with the baculosystem) are printed robotically onto the microscope slides in four quadrants covering an area of about 1 cm^2, allowed to bind, washed and dried in vacuum, and the fluorescence is measured on TR fluorometer.

[0050] The functionality of the method is tested using IDDM sera known to be positive for one or more of the antigens used.

[0051] For specificity testing recombinant GAD65, IA2 and PPINS, or fusion protein are added into patient sample to preadsorb specific antibodies.

[0052] The informativity will be compared with conventional systems. Statistical tests will be used to create best possible segregation of the positive and negative assay values.

[0053] The high density array system is fully automatized.

[0054] The invention is further illustrated by the following examples.

Example 1

Labeling procedure

[0055] Isothiocyantophenyl-DTTA-Eu, or Tb, or Sm (Mukkala 1989) will be used for labeling of the FP or the single autoantigens. Mainly the protocols of Lövgren & Petterson (1990) and Hemmilä et al. (1984) will be followed. 30-100 fold molar excess of the label substance will be used giving approximately 10-12 lanthanide molecules per protein molecule. For Tb, 500 fold excess will be used. The coupling is carried out for 18 hr at 0 °C in 0.1 M bicarbonate buffer pH 9.2. The Eu (Tb,Sm)-AAg complex is separated from free Eu (Tb, Sm) by gel filtration in a Sepharose 6B column equilibrated with 0.05 M Tris-HCl buffer pH 7.75 containing 0.9% NaCl and 0.05% NaN_3. The Eu-AAg complex is stored at 4 °C.

Example 2

Immunoassay

[0056] The assay is performed in the wells of polystyrene microtitration strip coated with unlabeled autoantigen preparate for 18 hr at 25 °C in 0.1 M bicarbonate buffer pH 9.6 (Siitari & Kurppa 1987). The strips are washed prior to use with 0.9% NaCl containing 0.05 % Tween 20 and 0.3% Germal II. To each well 100 µl of diluted (1:10) serum is added and incubated for 1 hr at 40 °C, washed 2x with the wash solution and 200 µl of the Eu-labeled autoantigen fraction (50 ng/well) is added.

[0057] The strips are incubated for 1 hr at 40 °C. The strips are washed 5x with the washing solution. Thereafter Enhancement Solution (Wallac) 200 µl/well is added. Strips are shaken for 10 min in a plate shaker and measured in EG&G Wallac Victor fluorometer for 1s/specimen. The photons emitted are measured as counts/s. Automated data reduction program calculates mean value of duplicates and the coefficient of variation (CV%).

[0058] For future development, the assay formate will be miniaturized e.g. by immobilizing the autoantigen molecules onto microparticles (Lövgren et al. 1997) or as a microarray onto glass cover slips.

[0059] It will be appreciated that the methods of the present invention can be incorporated in the form of a variety of

embodiments, only a few of which are disclosed herein. It will be apparent for the specialist in the field that other embodiments exist and do not depart from the spirit of the invention. Thus, the described embodiments are illustrative and should not be construed as restrictive.

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SEQUENCE LISTING

(1) GENERAL INFORMATION:

(i) APPLICANT: Hinkkanen, Ari

(ii) TITLE OF INVENTION: A New Fusion Protein and Its Use in an Immunoassay for the Simultaneous Detection of Autoantibodies Related to Insulin-Dependent Diabetes Mellitus

(iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 13

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(v) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:
(A) MEDIUM TYPE: Floppy disk
(B) COMPUTER: IBM PC compatible
(C) OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS/MS-DOS
(D) SOFTWARE: PatentIn Release #1.0, Version #1.30

(vi) CURRENT APPLICATION DATA:
(A) APPLICATION NUMBER: US 09/015,399
(B) FILING DATE: 29-JAN-1998
(C) CLASSIFICATION:

(viii) ATTORNEY/AGENT INFORMATION:
(A) NAME: Ihnen, Jeffrey L.
(B) REGISTRATION NUMBER: 28,957
(C) REFERENCE/DOCKET NUMBER: 2328-111

(ix) TELECOMMUNICATION INFORMATION:
(A) TELEPHONE: 202-783-6040
(B) TELEFAX: 202-783-6031

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:1:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 8 amino acids
(B) TYPE: amino acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS:
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(v) FRAGMENT TYPE: N-terminal

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:1:

Asp Tyr Lys Asp Asp Asp Asp Lys
1 5

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:2:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 9 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS:
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(v) FRAGMENT TYPE: internal

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:2:

Lys Lys Lys Arg Pro Arg Lys Lys Lys
1 5

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:3:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 10 amino acids
(B) TYPE: amino acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS:
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(v) FRAGMENT TYPE: C-terminal

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:3:

Cys Asn Gly Ser His His His His His His
1 5 10

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:4:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 9 amino acids
(B) TYPE: amino acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS:
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(v) FRAGMENT TYPE: internal

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:4:

Lys Lys Lys Arg Ser Arg Lys Lys Lys
1 5

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:5:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 979 amino acids
(B) TYPE: amino acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS:
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:5:

Met Arg Arg Pro Arg Arg Pro Gly Gly Leu Gly Gly Ser Gly Gly Leu
1 5 10 15

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Arg Leu Leu Leu Cys Leu Leu Leu Leu Ser Ser Arg Pro Gly Gly Cys
            20                  25                  30

Ser Ala Val Ser Ala His Gly Cys Leu Phe Asp Arg Arg Leu Cys Ser
        35                  40                  45

His Leu Glu Val Cys Ile Gln Asp Gly Leu Phe Gly Gln Cys Gln Val
    50                  55                  60

Gly Val Gly Gln Ala Arg Pro Leu Leu Gln Val Thr Ser Pro Val Leu
65                  70                  75                  80

Gln Arg Leu Gln Gly Val Leu Arg Gln Leu Met Ser Gln Gly Leu Ser
                85                  90                  95

Trp His Asp Asp Leu Thr Gln Tyr Val Ile Ser Gln Glu Met Glu Arg
            100                 105                 110

Ile Pro Arg Leu Arg Pro Pro Glu Pro Arg Pro Arg Asp Arg Ser Gly
        115                 120                 125

Leu Ala Pro Lys Arg Pro Gly Pro Ala Gly Glu Leu Leu Leu Gln Asp
    130                 135                 140

Ile Pro Thr Gly Ser Ala Pro Ala Ala Gln His Arg Leu Pro Gln Pro
145                 150                 155                 160

Pro Val Gly Lys Gly Gly Ala Gly Ala Ser Ser Ser Leu Ser Pro Leu
                165                 170                 175

Gln Ala Glu Leu Leu Pro Pro Leu Leu Glu His Leu Leu Leu Pro Pro
            180                 185                 190

Gln Pro Pro His Pro Ser Leu Ser Tyr Glu Pro Ala Leu Leu Gln Pro
        195                 200                 205

Tyr Leu Phe His Gln Phe Gly Ser Arg Asp Gly Ser Arg Val Ser Glu
    210                 215                 220

Gly Ser Pro Gly Met Val Ser Val Gly Pro Leu Pro Lys Ala Glu Ala
225                 230                 235                 240

Pro Ala Leu Phe Ser Arg Thr Ala Ser Lys Gly Ile Phe Gly Asp His
                245                 250                 255

Pro Gly His Ser Tyr Gly Asp Leu Pro Gly Pro Ser Pro Ala Gln Leu
            260                 265                 270

Phe Gln Asp Ser Gly Leu Leu Tyr Leu Ala Gln Glu Leu Pro Ala Pro
        275                 280                 285

Ser Arg Ala Arg Val Pro Arg Leu Pro Glu Gln Gly Ser Ser Ser Arg
    290                 295                 300

Ala Glu Asp Ser Pro Glu Gly Tyr Glu Lys Glu Gly Leu Gly Asp Arg
305                 310                 315                 320

Gly Glu Lys Pro Ala Ser Pro Ala Val Gln Pro Asp Ala Ala Leu Gln
                325                 330                 335

Arg Leu Ala Ala Val Leu Ala Gly Tyr Gly Val Glu Leu Arg Gln Leu
            340                 345                 350

Thr Pro Glu Gln Leu Ser Thr Leu Leu Thr Leu Leu Gln Leu Leu Pro
        355                 360                 365
```

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Lys Gly Ala Gly Arg Asn Pro Gly Gly Val Val Asn Val Gly Ala Asp
    370                 375                 380

Ile Lys Lys Thr Met Glu Gly Pro Val Glu Gly Arg Asp Thr Ala Glu
385                 390                 395                 400

Leu Pro Ala Arg Thr Ser Pro Met Pro Gly His Pro Thr Ala Ser Pro
                405                 410                 415

Thr Ser Ser Glu Val Gln Gln Val Pro Ser Pro Val Ser Ser Glu Pro
            420                 425                 430

Pro Lys Ala Ala Arg Pro Pro Val Thr Pro Val Leu Leu Glu Lys Lys
        435                 440                 445

Ser Pro Leu Gly Gln Ser Gln Pro Thr Val Ala Gly Gln Pro Ser Ala
    450                 455                 460

Arg Pro Ala Ala Glu Glu Tyr Gly Tyr Ile Val Thr Asp Gln Lys Pro
465                 470                 475                 480

Leu Ser Leu Ala Ala Gly Val Lys Leu Leu Glu Ile Leu Ala Glu His
                485                 490                 495

Val His Met Ser Ser Gly Ser Phe Ile Asn Ile Ser Val Val Gly Pro
            500                 505                 510

Ala Leu Thr Phe Arg Ile Arg His Asn Glu Gln Asn Leu Ser Leu Ala
        515                 520                 525

Asp Val Thr Gln Gln Ala Gly Leu Val Lys Ser Glu Leu Glu Ala Gln
    530                 535                 540

Thr Gly Leu Gln Ile Leu Gln Thr Gly Val Gly Gln Arg Glu Glu Ala
545                 550                 555                 560

Ala Ala Val Leu Pro Gln Thr Ala His Ser Thr Ser Pro Met Arg Ser
                565                 570                 575

Val Leu Leu Thr Leu Val Ala Leu Ala Gly Val Ala Gly Leu Leu Val
            580                 585                 590

Ala Leu Ala Val Ala Leu Cys Val Arg Gln His Ala Arg Gln Gln Asp
        595                 600                 605

Lys Glu Arg Leu Ala Ala Leu Gly Pro Glu Gly Ala His Gly Asp Thr
    610                 615                 620

Thr Phe Glu Tyr Gln Asp Leu Cys Arg Gln His Met Ala Thr Lys Ser
625                 630                 635                 640

Leu Phe Asn Arg Ala Glu Gly Pro Pro Glu Pro Ser Arg Val Ser Ser
                645                 650                 655

Val Ser Ser Gln Phe Ser Asp Ala Ala Gln Ala Ser Pro Ser Ser His
            660                 665                 670

Ser Ser Thr Pro Ser Trp Cys Glu Glu Pro Ala Gln Ala Asn Met Asp
        675                 680                 685

Ile Ser Thr Gly His Met Ile Leu Ala Tyr Met Glu Asp His Leu Arg
    690                 695                 700

Asn Arg Asp Arg Leu Ala Lys Glu Trp Gln Ala Leu Cys Ala Tyr Gln
705                 710                 715                 720
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```
Ala Glu Pro Asn Thr Cys Ala Thr Ala Gln Gly Glu Gly Asn Ile Lys
                725                 730                 735

Lys Asn Arg His Pro Asp Phe Leu Pro Tyr Asp His Ala Arg Ile Lys
            740                 745                 750

Leu Lys Val Glu Ser Ser Pro Ser Arg Ser Asp Tyr Ile Asn Ala Ser
        755                 760                 765

Pro Ile Ile Glu His Asp Pro Arg Met Pro Ala Tyr Ile Ala Thr Gln
    770                 775                 780

Gly Pro Leu Ser His Thr Ile Ala Asp Phe Trp Gln Met Val Trp Glu
785                 790                 795                 800

Ser Gly Cys Thr Val Ile Val Met Leu Thr Pro Leu Val Glu Asp Gly
                805                 810                 815

Val Lys Gln Cys Asp Arg Tyr Trp Pro Asp Glu Gly Ala Ser Leu Tyr
            820                 825                 830

His Val Tyr Glu Val Asn Leu Val Ser Glu His Ile Trp Cys Glu Asp
        835                 840                 845

Phe Leu Val Arg Ser Phe Tyr Leu Lys Asn Val Gln Thr Gln Glu Thr
    850                 855                 860

Arg Thr Leu Thr Gln Phe His Phe Leu Ser Trp Pro Ala Glu Gly Thr
865                 870                 875                 880

Pro Ala Ser Thr Arg Pro Leu Leu Asp Phe Arg Arg Lys Val Asn Lys
                885                 890                 895

Cys Tyr Arg Gly Arg Ser Cys Pro Ile Ile Val His Cys Ser Asp Gly
            900                 905                 910

Ala Gly Arg Thr Gly Thr Tyr Ile Leu Ile Asp Met Val Leu Asn Arg
        915                 920                 925

Met Ala Lys Gly Val Lys Glu Ile Asp Ile Ala Ala Thr Leu Glu His
    930                 935                 940

Val Arg Asp Gln Arg Pro Gly Leu Val Arg Ser Lys Asp Gln Phe Glu
945                 950                 955                 960

Phe Ala Leu Thr Ala Val Ala Glu Glu Val Asn Ala Ile Leu Lys Ala
                965                 970                 975

Leu Pro Gln
```

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:6:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 585 amino acids
(B) TYPE: amino acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS:
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:6:

```
Met Ala Ser Pro Gly Ser Gly Phe Trp Ser Phe Gly Ser Glu Asp Gly
1               5                   10                  15
```

```
Ser Gly Asp Ser Glu Asn Pro Gly Thr Ala Arg Ala Trp Cys Gln Val
            20                  25                  30

Ala Gln Lys Phe Thr Gly Gly Ile Gly Asn Lys Leu Cys Ala Leu Leu
        35                  40                  45

Tyr Gly Asp Ala Glu Lys Pro Ala Glu Ser Gly Gly Ser Gln Pro Pro
    50                  55                  60

Arg Ala Ala Ala Arg Lys Ala Ala Cys Ala Cys Asp Gln Lys Pro Cys
65                  70                  75                  80

Ser Cys Ser Lys Val Asp Val Asn Tyr Ala Phe Leu His Ala Thr Asp
                85                  90                  95

Leu Leu Pro Ala Cys Asp Gly Glu Arg Pro Thr Leu Ala Phe Leu Gln
            100                 105                 110

Asp Val Met Asn Ile Leu Leu Gln Tyr Val Val Lys Ser Phe Asp Arg
        115                 120                 125

Ser Thr Lys Val Ile Asp Phe His Tyr Pro Asn Glu Leu Leu Gln Glu
    130                 135                 140

Tyr Asn Trp Glu Leu Ala Asp Gln Pro Gln Asn Leu Glu Glu Ile Leu
145                 150                 155                 160

Met His Cys Gln Thr Thr Leu Lys Tyr Ala Ile Lys Thr Gly His Pro
                165                 170                 175

Arg Tyr Phe Asn Gln Leu Ser Thr Gly Leu Asp Met Val Gly Leu Ala
            180                 185                 190

Ala Asp Trp Leu Thr Ser Thr Ala Asn Thr Asn Met Phe Thr Tyr Glu
        195                 200                 205

Ile Ala Pro Val Phe Val Leu Leu Glu Tyr Val Thr Leu Lys Lys Met
    210                 215                 220

Arg Glu Ile Ile Gly Trp Pro Gly Gly Ser Gly Asp Gly Ile Phe Ser
225                 230                 235                 240

Pro Gly Gly Ala Ile Ser Asn Met Tyr Ala Met Met Ile Ala Arg Phe
                245                 250                 255

Lys Met Phe Pro Glu Val Lys Glu Lys Gly Met Ala Ala Leu Pro Arg
            260                 265                 270

Leu Ile Ala Phe Thr Ser Glu His Ser His Phe Ser Leu Lys Lys Gly
        275                 280                 285

Ala Ala Ala Leu Gly Ile Gly Thr Asp Ser Val Ile Leu Ile Lys Cys
    290                 295                 300

Asp Glu Arg Gly Lys Met Ile Pro Ser Asp Leu Glu Arg Arg Ile Leu
305                 310                 315                 320

Glu Ala Lys Gln Lys Gly Phe Val Pro Phe Leu Val Ser Ala Thr Ala
                325                 330                 335

Gly Thr Thr Val Tyr Gly Ala Phe Asp Pro Leu Leu Ala Val Ala Asp
            340                 345                 350

Ile Cys Lys Lys Tyr Lys Ile Trp Met His Val Asp Ala Ala Trp Gly
        355                 360                 365
```

```
Gly Gly Leu Leu Met Ser Arg Lys His Lys Trp Lys Leu Ser Gly Val
    370                 375                 380

Glu Arg Ala Asn Ser Val Thr Trp Asn Pro His Lys Met Met Gly Val
385                 390                 395                 400

Pro Leu Gln Cys Ser Ala Leu Leu Val Arg Glu Glu Gly Leu Met Gln
                405                 410                 415

Asn Cys Asn Gln Met His Ala Ser Tyr Leu Phe Gln Gln Asp Lys His
            420                 425                 430

Tyr Asp Leu Ser Tyr Asp Thr Gly Asp Lys Ala Leu Gln Cys Gly Arg
        435                 440                 445

His Val Asp Val Phe Lys Leu Trp Leu Met Trp Arg Ala Lys Gly Thr
    450                 455                 460

Thr Gly Phe Glu Ala His Val Asp Lys Cys Leu Glu Leu Ala Glu Tyr
465                 470                 475                 480

Leu Tyr Asn Ile Ile Lys Asn Arg Glu Gly Tyr Glu Met Val Phe Asp
                485                 490                 495

Gly Lys Pro Gln His Thr Asn Val Cys Phe Trp Tyr Ile Pro Pro Ser
            500                 505                 510

Leu Arg Thr Leu Glu Asp Asn Glu Glu Arg Met Ser Arg Leu Ser Lys
        515                 520                 525

Val Ala Pro Val Ile Lys Ala Arg Met Met Glu Tyr Gly Thr Thr Met
    530                 535                 540

Val Ser Tyr Gln Pro Leu Gly Asp Lys Val Asn Phe Phe Arg Met Val
545                 550                 555                 560

Ile Ser Asn Pro Ala Ala Thr His Gln Asp Ile Asp Phe Leu Ile Glu
                565                 570                 575

Glu Ile Glu Arg Leu Gly Gln Asp Leu
            580                 585
```

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:7:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 110 amino acids
(B) TYPE: amino acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS:
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:7:

```
Met Ala Leu Trp Met Arg Leu Leu Pro Leu Leu Ala Leu Leu Ala Leu
1               5                   10                  15

Trp Gly Pro Asp Pro Ala Ala Ala Phe Val Asn Gln His Leu Cys Gly
            20                  25                  30

Ser His Leu Val Glu Ala Leu Tyr Leu Val Cys Gly Glu Arg Gly Phe
        35                  40                  45
```

Phe Tyr Thr Pro Lys Thr Arg Arg Glu Ala Glu Asp Leu Gln Val Gly
50 55 60

Gln Val Glu Leu Gly Gly Gly Pro Gly Ala Gly Ser Leu Gln Pro Leu
65 70 75 80

Ala Leu Glu Gly Ser Leu Gln Lys Arg Gly Ile Val Glu Gln Cys Cys
85 90 95

Thr Ser Ile Cys Ser Leu Tyr Gln Leu Glu Asn Tyr Cys Asn
100 105 110

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:8:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 2457 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: double
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:8:

ACCCGCCCTC GCCGCTCGGC CCCGCGCGTC CCCGCGCGTG CCCTCCTCCC GCCACACGGC 60

ACGCACGCGC GCGCAGGGCC AAGCCGAGGC AGCCGCCCGC AGCTCGCACT CGCTGGCGAC 120

CTGCTCCAGT CTCCAAAGCC GATGGCATCT CCGGGCTCTG GCTTTTGGTC TTTCGGGTCG 180

GAAGATGGCT CTGGGGATTC CGAGAATCCC GGCACAGCGC GAGCCTGGTG CCAAGTGGCT 240

CAGAAGTTCA CGGGCGGCAT CGGAAACAAA CTGTGCGCCC TGCTCTACGG AGACGCCGAG 300

AAGCCGGCGG AGAGCGGCGG GAGCCAACCC CCGCGGGCCG CCGCCCGGAA GGCCGCCTGC 360

GCCTGCGACC AGAAGCCCTG CAGCTGCTCC AAAGTGGATG TCAACTACGC GTTTCTCCAT 420

GCAACAGACC TGCTGCCGGC GTGTGATGGA GAAAGGCCCA CTTTGGCGTT TCTGCAAGAT 480

GTTATGAACA TTTTACTTCA GTATGTGGTG AAAAGTTTCG ATAGATCAAC CAAAGTGATT 540

GATTTCCATT ATCCTAATGA GCTTCTCCAA GAATATAATT GGGAATTGGC AGACCAACCA 600

CAAAATTTGG AGGAAATTTT GATGCATTGC CAAACAACTC TAAAATATGC AATTAAAACA 660

GGGCATCCTA GATACTTCAA TCAACTTTCT ACTGGTTTGG ATATGGTTGG ATTAGCAGCA 720

GACTGGCTGA CATCAACAGC AAATACTAAC ATGTTCACCT ATGAAATTGC TCCAGTATTT 780

GTGCTTTTGG AATATGTCAC ACTAAAGAAA ATGAGAGAAA TCATTGGCTG GCCAGGGGGC 840

TCTGGCGATG GGATATTTTC TCCCGGTGGC GCCATATCTA ACATGTATGC CATGATGATC 900

GCACGCTTTA AGATGTTCCC AGAAGTCAAG GAGAAAGGAA TGGCTGCTCT TCCCAGGCTC 960

ATTGCCTTCA CGTCTGAACA TAGTCATTTT TCTCTCAAGA AGGGAGCTGC AGCCTTAGGG 1020

ATTGGAACAG ACAGCGTGAT TCTGATTAAA TGTGATGAGA GAGGGAAAAT GATTCCATCT 1080

GATCTTGAAA GAAGGATTCT TGAAGCCAAA CAGAAAGGGT TTGTTCCTTT CCTCGTGAGT 1140

GCCACAGCTG GAACCACCGT GTACGGAGCA TTTGACCCCC TCTTAGCTGT CGCTGACATT 1200

TGCAAAAAGT ATAAGATCTG GATGCATGTG GATGCAGCTT GGGGTGGGGG ATTACTGATG 1260

TCCCGAAAAC ACAAGTGGAA ACTGAGTGGC GTGGAGAGGG CCAACTCTGT GACGTGGAAT 1320

CCACACAAGA TGATGGGAGT CCCTTTGCAG TGCTCTGCTC TCCTGGTTAG AGAAGAGGGA 1380

TTGATGCAGA ATTGCAACCA AATGCATGCC TCCTACCTCT TTCAGCAAGA TAAACATTAT 1440

GACCTGTCCT ATGACACTGG AGACAAGGCC TTACAGTGCG GACGCCACGT TGATGTTTTT 1500

AAACTATGGC TGATGTGGAG GGCAAAGGGG ACTACCGGGT TTGAAGCGCA TGTTGATAAA 1560

TGTTTGGAGT TGGCAGAGTA TTTATACAAC ATCATAAAAA ACCGAGAAGG ATATGAGATG 1620

GTGTTTGATG GGAAGCCTCA GCACACAAAT GTCTGCTTCT GGTACATTCC TCCAAGCTTG 1680

CGTACTCTGG AAGACAATGA AGAGAGAATG AGTCGCCTCT CGAAGGTGGC TCCAGTGATT 1740

AAAGCCAGAA TGATGGAGTA TGGAACCACA ATGGTCAGCT ACCAACCCTT GGGAGACAAG 1800

GTCAATTTCT TCCGCATGGT CATCTCAAAC CCAGCGGCAA CTCACCAAGA CATTGACTTC 1860

CTGATTGAAG AAATAGAACG CCTTGGACAA GATTTATAAT AACCTTGCTC ACCAAGCTGT 1920

TCCACTTCTC TAGAGAACAT GCCCTCAGCT AAGCCCCCTA CTGAGAAACT TCCTTTGAGA 1980

ATTGTGCGAC TTCACAAAAT GCAAGGTGAA CACCACTTTG TCTCTGAGAA CAGACGTTAC 2040

CAATTATGGA GTGTCACCAG CTGCCAAAAT CGTAGGTGTT GGCTCTGCTG GTCACTGGAG 2100

TAGTTGCTAC TCTTCAGAAT ATGGACAAAG AAGGCACAGG TGTAAATATA GTAGCAGGAT 2160

GAGGAACCTC AAACTGGGTA TCATTTGCAC GTGCTCTTCT GTTCTCAAAT GCTAAATGCA 2220

AACACTGTGT ATTTATTAGT TAGGTGTGCC AAACTACCGT TCCCAAATTG GTGTTTCTGA 2280

ATGACATCAA CATTCCCCCA ACATTACTCC ATTACTAAAG ACAGAAAAAA ATAAAAACAT 2340

AAAATATACA AACATGTGGC AACCTGTTCT TCCTACCAAA TATAAACTTG TGTATGATCC 2400

AAGTATTTTA TCTGTGTTGT CTCTCTAAAC CCAAATAAAT GTGTAAATGT GGACACA 2457

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:9:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 3613 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: double
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:9:

CAGCCCCTCT GGCAGGCTCC CGCCAGCGTC GCTGCGGCTC CGGCCCGGGA GCGAGCGCCC 60

GGAGCTCGGA AAGATGCGGC GCCCGCGGCG GCCTGGGGGT CTCGGGGGAT CCGGGGGTCT 120

CCGGCTGCTC CTCTGCCTCC TGCTGCTGAG CAGCCGCCCG GGGGGCTGCA GCGCCGTTAG 180

TGCCCACGGC TGTCTATTTG ACCGCAGGCT CTGCTCTCAC CTGGAAGTCT GTATTCAGGA 240

TGGCTTGTTT GGGCAGTGCC AGGTGGGAGT GGGGCAGGCC CGGCCCCTTT TGCAAGTCAC 300

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CTCCCCAGTT CTCCAACGCT TACAAGGTGT GCTCCGACAA CTCATGTCCC AAGGATTGTC     360
CTGGCACGAT GACCTCACCC AGTATGTGAT CTCTCAGGAG ATGGAGCGCA TCCCCAGGCT     420
TCGCCCCCCA GAGCCCCGTC CAAGGGACAG GTCTGGCTTG GCACCCAAGA GACCTGGTCC     480
TGCTGGAGAG CTGCTTTTAC AGGACATCCC CACTGGCTCC GCCCCTGCTG CCCAGCATCG     540
GCTTCCACAA CCACCAGTGG GCAAAGGTGG AGCTGGGGCC AGCTCCTCTC TGTCCCCTCT     600
GCAGGCTGAG CTGCTCCCGC CTCTCTTGGA GCACCTGCTG CTGCCCCCAC AGCCTCCCCA     660
CCCTTCACTG AGTTACGAAC CTGCCTTGCT GCAGCCCTAC CTGTTCCACC AGTTTGGCTC     720
CCGTGATGGC TCCAGGGTCT CAGAGGGCTC CCCAGGGATG GTCAGTGTCG GCCCCCTGCC     780
CAAGGCTGAA GCCCCTGCCC TCTTCAGCAG AACTGCCTCC AAGGGCATAT TTGGGGACCA     840
CCCTGGCCAC TCCTACGGGG ACCTTCCAGG GCCTTCACCT GCCCAGCTTT TTCAAGACTC     900
TGGGCTGCTC TATCTGGCCC AGGAGTTGCC AGCACCCAGC AGGGCCAGGG TGCCAAGGCT     960
GCCAGAGCAA GGGAGCAGCA GCCGGGCAGA GGACTCCCCA GAGGGCTATG AGAAGGAAGG    1020
ACTAGGGGAT CGTGGAGAGA AGCCTGCTTC CCCAGCTGTG CAGCCAGATG CGGCTCTGCA    1080
GAGGCTGGCC GCTGTGCTGG CGGGCTATGG GGTAGAGCTG CGTCAGCTGA CCCCTGAGCA    1140
GCTCTCCACA CTCCTGACCC TGCTGCAGCT ACTGCCCAAG GGTGCAGGAA GAAATCCGGG    1200
AGGGGTTGTA AATGTTGGAG CTGATATCAA GAAAACAATG GAGGGGCCGG TGGAGGGCAG    1260
AGACACAGCA GAGCTTCCAG CCCGCACATC CCCCATGCCT GGACACCCCA CTGCCAGCCC    1320
TACCTCCAGT GAAGTCCAGC AGGTGCCAAG CCCTGTCTCC TCTGAGCCTC CCAAAGCTGC    1380
CAGACCCCCT GTGACACCTG TCCTGCTAGA GAAGAAAAGC CCACTGGGCC AGAGCCAGCC    1440
CACGGTGGCA GGACAGCCCT CAGCCCGCCC AGCAGCAGAG GAATATGGCT ACATCGTCAC    1500
TGATCAGAAG CCCCTGAGCC TGGCTGCAGG AGTGAAGCTG CTGGAGATCC TGGCTGAGCA    1560
TGTGCACATG TCCTCAGGCA GCTTCATCAA CATCAGTGTG GTGGGACCAG CCCTCACCTT    1620
CCGCATCCGG CACAATGAGC AGAACCTGTC TTTGGCTGAT GTGACCCAAC AAGCAGGGCT    1680
GGTGAAGTCT GAACTGGAAG CACAGACAGG GCTCCAAATC TTGCAGACAG GAGTGGGACA    1740
GAGGGAGGAG GCAGCTGCAG TCCTTCCCCA AACTGCGCAC AGCACCTCAC CCATGCGCTC    1800
AGTGCTGCTC ACTCTGGTGG CCCTGGCAGG TGTGGCTGGG CTGCTGGTGG CTCTGGCTGT    1860
GGCTCTGTGT GTGCGGCAGC ATGCGCGGCA GCAAGACAAG GAGCGCCTGG CAGCCCTGGG    1920
GCCTGAGGGG GCCCATGGTG ACACTACCTT TGAGTACCAG GACCTGTGCC GCCAGCACAT    1980
GGCCACGAAG TCCTTGTTCA ACCGGGCAGA GGGTCCACCG GAGCCTTCAC GGGTGAGCAG    2040
TGTGTCCTCC CAGTTCAGCG ACGCAGCCCA GGCCAGCCCC AGCTCCCACA GCAGCACCCC    2100
GTCCTGGTGC GAGGAGCCGG CCCAAGCCAA CATGGACATC TCCACGGGAC ACATGATTCT    2160
GGCATACATG GAGGATCACC TGCGGAACCG GGACCGCCTT GCCAAGGAGT GGCAGGCCCT    2220
CTGTGCCTAC CAAGCAGAGC CAAACACCTG TGCCACCGCG CAGGGGGAGG GCAACATCAA    2280
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AAAGAACCGG CATCCTGACT TCCTGCCCTA TGACCATGCC CGCATAAAAC TGAAGGTGGA 2340

GAGCAGCCCT TCTCGGAGCG ATTACATCAA CGCCAGCCCC ATTATTGAGC ATGACCCTCG 2400

GATGCCAGCC TACATAGCCA CGCAGGGCCC GCTGTCCCAT ACCATCGCAG ACTTCTGGCA 2460

GATGGTGTGG GAGAGCGGCT GCACCGTCAT CGTCATGCTG ACCCCGCTGG TGGAGGATGG 2520

TGTCAAGCAG TGTGACCGCT ACTGGCCAGA TGAGGGTGCC TCCCTCTACC ACGTATATGA 2580

GGTGAACCTG GTGTCGGAGC ACATCTGGTG CGAGGACTTT CTGGTGCGGA GCTTCTACCT 2640

GAAGAACGTG CAGACCCAGG AGACGCGCAC GCTCACGCAG TTCCACTTCC TCAGCTGGCC 2700

GGCAGAGGGC ACACCGGCCT CCACGCGGCC CCTGCTGGAC TTCCGCAGGA AGGTGAACAA 2760

GTGCTACCGG GGCCGCTCCT GCCCCATCAT CGTGCACTGC AGTGATGGTG CGGGGAGGAC 2820

CGGCACCTAC ATCCTCATCG ACATGGTCCT GAACCGCATG GCAAAAGGAG TGAAGGAGAT 2880

TGACATCGCT GCCACCCTGG AGCATGTCCG TGACCAGCGG CCTGGCCTTG TCCGCTCTAA 2940

GGACCAGTTT GAATTTGCCC TGACAGCCGT GGCGGAGGAA GTGAATGCCA TCCTCAAGGC 3000

CCTGCCCCAG TGAGACCCTG GGGCCCCTTG GCGGGCAGCC CAGCCTCTGT CCCTCTTTGC 3060

CTGTGTGAGC ATCTCTGTGT ACCCACTCCT CACTGCCCCA CCAGCCACCT CTTGGGCATG 3120

CTCAGCCCTT CCTAGAAGAG TCAGGAAGGG AAAGCCAGAA GGGGCACGCC TGCCCAGCCT 3180

CGCATGCCAG AGCCTGGGGC ATCCCAGAGC CCAGGGCATC CCATGGGGGT GCTGCAGCCA 3240

GGAGGAGAGG AAAGGACATG GGTAGCAATT CTACCCAGAG CCTTCTCCTG CCTACATTCC 3300

CTGGCCTGGC TCTCCTGTAG CTCTCCTGGG GTTCTGGGAG TTCCCTGAAC ATCTGTGTGT 3360

GTCCCCCTAT GCTCCAGTAT GGAAGAATGG GGTGGAGGGT CGCCACACCC GGCTCCCCCT 3420

GCTTCTCAGC CCCGGGCCTG CCTCTGACTC ACACTTGGGC GCTCTGCCCT CCCTGGCCTC 3480

ACGCCCAGCC TGGTCCCACC ACCCTCCCAC CATGCGCTGC TCAACCTCTC TCCTTCTGGC 3540

GCAAGAGAAC ATTTCTAGAA AAAACTACTT TTGTACCAGT GTGAATAAAG TTAGTGTGTT 3600

GTCTGTGCAG CTG 3613

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:10:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 4992 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:10:

CTCGAGGGGC CTAGACATTG CCCTCCAGAG AGAGCACCCA ACACCCTCCA GGCTTGACCG 60

GCCAGGGTGT CCCCTTCCTA CCTTGGAGAG AGCAGCCCCA GGGCATCCTG CAGGGGGTGC 120

TGGGACACCA GCTGGCCTTC AAGGTCTCTG CCTCCCTCCA GCCACCCCAC TACACGCTGC 180

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TGGGATCCTG GATCTCAGCT CCCTGGCCGA CAACACTGGC AAACTCCTAC TCATCCACGA     240
AGGCCCTCCT GGGCATGGTG GTCCTTCCCA GCCTGGCAGT CTGTTCCTCA CACACCTTGT     300
TAGTGCCCAG CCCCTGAGGT TGCAGCTGGG GGTGTCTCTG AAGGGCTGTG AGCCCCCAGG     360
AAGCCCTGGG GAAGTGCCTG CCTTGCCTCC CCCCGGCCCT GCCAGCGCCT GGCTCTGCCC     420
TCCTACCTGG GCTCCCCCCA TCCAGCCTCC CTCCCTACAC ACTCCTCTCA AGGAGGCACC     480
CATGTCCTCT CCAGCTGCCG GGCCTCAGAG CACTGTGGCG TCCTGGGGCA GCCACCGCAT     540
GTCCTGCTGT GGCATGGCTC AGGGTGGAAA GGGCGGAAGG GAGGGGTCCT GCAGATAGCT     600
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GCCCCGAGAG GTTCCGAGGC TGAGGCCAGG GTGGGACATA GGGATGCGAG GGGCCGGGGC     720
ACAGGATACT CCAACCTGCC TGCCCCCATG GTCTCATCCT CCTGCTTCTG GGACCTCCTG     780
ATCCTGCCCC TGGTGCTAAG AGGCAGGTAA GGGGCTGCAG GCAGCAGGGC TCGGAGCCCA     840
TGCCCCCTCA CCATGGGTCA GGCTGGACCT CCAGGTGCCT GTTCTGGGGA GCTGGGAGGG     900
CCGGAGGGGT GTACCCCAGG GGCTCAGCCC AGATGACACT ATGGGGGTGA TGGTGTCATG     960
GGACCTGGCC AGGAGAGGGG AGATGGGCTC CCAGAAGAGG AGTGGGGGCT GAGAGGGTGC    1020
CTGGGGGGCC AGGACGGAGC TGGGCCAGTG CACAGCTTCC CACACCTGCC CACCCCCAGA    1080
GTCCTGCCGC CACCCCCAGA TCACACGGAA GATGAGGTCC GAGTGGCCTG CTGAGGACTT    1140
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CCTCAGCTGG GGCTGCTGTC CTAAGGCAGG GTGGGAACTA GGCAGCCAGC AGGGAGGGGA    1260
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GGGCCATCCG GGACTGGGGA CAGGGGTCCT GGGGACAGGG GTCCGGGGAC AGGGTCCTGG    1380
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AGGGGTCTGG GGACAGGGGT GTGGGGACAG GGGTCCGGGG ACAGGGGTGT GGGGACAGGG    1500
GTCTGGGGAC AGGGGTGTGG GGACAGGGGT GTGGGGACAG GGGTCTGGGG ACAGGGGTGT    1560
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AGGGGTCCCG GGGACAGGGG TGTGGGGACA GGGGTGTGGG GACAGGGGTC CTGGGGACAG    1740
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GTCCTGGGGA CAGGGGTCTG GGGACAGCAG CGCAAAGAGC CCCGCCCTGC AGCCTCCAGC    1860
TCTCCTGGTC TAATGTGGAA AGTGGCCCAG GTGAGGGCTT TGCTCTCCTG GAGACATTTG    1920
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CCGCTGGTCC TGAGGAAGAG GTGCTGACGA CCAAGGAGAT CTTCCCACAG ACCCAGCACC    2040
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GCCCTAATGG GCCAGGCGGC AGGGGTTGAC AGGTAGGGGA GATGGGCTCT GAGACTATAA    2160
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CAAGCAGGTC TGTTCCAAGG GCCTTTGCGT CAGGTGGGCT CAGGGTTCCA GGGTGGCTGG 2280

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TGAGCCCAGG GGCCCCAAGG CAGGGCACCT GGCCTTCAGC CTGCCTCAGC CCTGCCTGTC 2400

TCCCAGATCA CTGTCCTTCT GCCATGGCCC TGTGGATGCG CCTCCTGCCC CTGCTGGCGC 2460

TGCTGGCCCT CTGGGGACCT GACCCAGCCG CAGCCTTTGT GAACCAACAC CTGTGCGGCT 2520

CACACCTGGT GGAAGCTCTC TACCTAGTGT GCGGGGAACG AGGCTTCTTC TACACACCCA 2580

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CGAACACCCC ATCACGCCCG GAGGAGGGCG TGGCTGCCTG CCTGAGTGGG CCAGACCCCT 3060

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TGGGGAGAAG TACTGGGATC ACCTGTTCAG GCTCCCACTG TGACGCTGCC CCGGGGCGGG 3180

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CTCCCTCTAA CCTGGGTCCA GCCCGGCTGG AGATGGGTGG GAGTGCGACC TAGGGCTGGC 3300

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CCAGGGCTGG GCTGGGGATG GCTGGGCCTG GGGCTGGCAT GGGCTGTGGC TGCAGACCAC 4800

TGCCAGCTTG GGCCTCGAGG CCAGGAGCTC ACCCTCCAGC TGCCCCGCCT CCAGAGTGGG 4860

GGCCAGGGCT GGGCAGGCGG GTGGACGGCC GGACACTGGC CCCGGAAGAG GAGGGAGGCG 4920

GTGGCTGGGA TCGGCAGCAG CCGTCCATGG GAACACCCAG CCGGCCCCAC TCGCACGGGT 4980

AGAGACAGGC GC 4992

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:11:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 10 amino acids
(B) TYPE: amino acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS:
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(v) FRAGMENT TYPE: C-terminal

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:11:

Xaa Xaa Gly Ser His His His His His His
1 5 10

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:12:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 27 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: other nucleic acid
(A) DESCRIPTION: /desc = "DNA for bridge peptide"

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:12:

AAGAAGAAGC GGCCGCGAAA GAAGAAG 27

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:13:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 27 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: other nucleic acid
(A) DESCRIPTION: /desc = "DNA for bridge peptide"

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:13:

AAGAAGAAGC GATCGCGAAA GAAGAAG 27

Claims

1. A fusion protein having epitopes of at least two of the autoantigens glutamic acid decarboxylase (GAD65), islet cell antigen (IA2) and preproinsulin (PPINS) wherein said epitopes are connected with a linker peptide, said fusion protein being able to bind to a solid phase.

2. The fusion protein according to claim 1 having epitopes of each of the autoantigens GAD65, IA2 and PPINS.

3. The fusion protein according to claim 2 wherein

   - the epitope of IA2 comprises the amino acids 771-979 of the amino acid sequence shown in Figure 2a,
   - the epitope of GAD65 comprises the amino acids 102-585 of the amino acid sequence shown in Figure 2b, and
   - the epitope of PPINS comprises all the amino acids 1-110 of the amino acid sequence shown in Figure 2c.

4. The fusion protein according to claim 1 wherein the linker peptide comprises lysine and argine residues.

5. The fusion protein according to claim 4 wherein said linker peptide is provided with a member of an affinity binding pair so as to enable the binding of said fusion protein to the solid phase.

6. The fusion protein according to claim 5 wherein the affinity binding pair is biotin - streptavidin.

7. A cDNA encoding the fusion protein according to claim 1 wherein said cDNA comprises the nucleotide sequences encoding the epitopes of at least two of the autoantigens glutamic acid decarboxylase (GAD65), islet cell antigen (IA2) and preproinsulin (PPINS).

8. A cDNA encoding the fusion protein according to claim 3 wherein said cDNA comprises the nucleotide sequences

   a) nucleotides 1311 to 1755 of the sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 8 encoding GAD65, aa 102-585,
   b) nucleotides 2313 to 2937 of the sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 9 encoding IA2, aa 771-979, and
   c) nucleotides 2424 to 2610 and 3397 to 3539 of the sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 10 encoding PPINS, aa 1-110, where said nucleotide sequences a), b) and c) can appear in any relative order.

9. A vector comprising the cDNA according to claim 7 or 8.

10. An E. coli cell encompassing the cDNA according to claim 7.

11. An immunoassay for the simultaneous determination in a sample of a person's body fluid of at least two insulin dependent diabetes mellitus (IDDM) related autoantibodies, wherein each autoantibody is specific for an epitope of the autoantigens glutamic acid decarboxylase (GAD65), islet cell antigen (IA2) or preproinsulin (PPINS), said immunoassay comprising the steps of

- incubating said sample with a fusion protein according to claim 1, said fusion protein being bound to a solid support,
- adding at least one labeled reagent capable of binding to one or more of said autoantibodies, and
- quantifying the signals from the labels bound to the solid phase.

12. The immunoassay according to claim 11 wherein the labeled reagent is an anti-human monoclonal antibody.

13. The immunoassay according to claim 11 wherein the labeled reagent comprises at least two antigens labeled with different labels, each antigen being one of the autoantigens GAD65, IA2 or PPINS; or proteins comprising epitopes thereof.

14. The immunoassay according to claim 11 wherein the labeled reagent comprises three antigens labeled with the same label, each antigen being one of the autoantigens GAD65, IA2 or PPINS; or proteins comprising epitopes thereof.

15. The immunoassay according to claim 11 wherein the label is a fluorescent lanthanide chelate.

16. A method for diagnosing a person's risk of developing insulin dependent diabetes mellitus (IDDM), said method comprising the determination in a sample of said person's body fluid of at least two insulin dependent diabetes mellitus (IDDM) related autoantibodies specific for an epitope of the autoantigens glutamic acid decarboxylase (GAD65), islet cell antigen (IA2) or preproinsulin (PPINS), wherein the presence of at least two of said autoantibodies are indicative for said person's risk of developing IDDM.

Flag-peptide	GAD65	Not I	IA2	Not I	PPINS	poly-his
DYKDDDDK	----------	KKKRPRKKK	----------	KKKRPRKKK	----------	CNGSHHHHHH

FIG. 1a

Flag-peptide	GAD65	Sgf I	IA2	Sgf I	PPINS	poly-his
DYKDDDDK	----------	KKKRSRKKK	----------	KKKRSRKKK	----------	CNGSHHHHHH

FIG. 1b

IA2 Underlined aa 771-979 Accession No. L18983

MRRPRRPGGLGGSGGLRLLLCLLLLSSRPGGCSAVSAHGCLFDRRLCSHLEVCIQDGLFGQCQVGVGQARPLLQVTSPVLQRL
QGVLRQLMSQGLSWHDDLTQYVISQEMERIPRLRPPEPRPRDRSGLAPKRPGPAGELLLQDIPTGSAPAAQHRLPQPPVGKGG
AGASSSLSPLQAELLPPLLEHLLLPPQPPHPSLSYEPALLQPYLFHQFGSRDGSRVSEGSPGMVSVGPLPKAEAPALFSRTASKGI
FGDHPGHSYGDLPGPSPAQLFQDSGLLYLAQELPAPSRARVPRLPEQGSSSRAEDSPEGYEKEGLGDRGEKPASPAVQPDAAL
QRLAAVLAGYGVELRQLTPEQLSTLLTLLQLLPKGAGRNPGGVVNVGADIKKTMEGPVEGRDTAELPARTSPMPGHPTASPT
SSEVQQVPSPVSSEPPKAARPPVTPVLLEKKSPLGQSQPTVAGQPSARPAAEEYGYIVTDQKPLSLAAGVKLLEILAEHVHMSS
GSFINISVVGPALTFRIRHNEQNLSLADVTQQAGLVKSELEAQTGLQILQTGVGQREEAAAVLPQTAHSTSPMRSVLLTLVALA
GVAGLLVALAVALCVRQHARQQDKERLAALGPEGAHGDTTFEYQDLCRQHMATKSLFNRAEGPPEPSRVSSVSSQFSDAAQ
ASPSSHSSTPSWCEEPAQANMDISTGHMILAYMEDHLRNRDRLAKEWQALCAYQAEPNTCATAQGEGNIKKNRHPDFLPYDH
ARIKLKVESSPSRSDYINASPIIEHDPRMPAYIATQGPLSHTIADFWQMVWESGCTVIVMLTPLVEDGVKQCDRYWPDEGASLY
HVYEVNLVSEHIWCEDFLVRSFYLKNVQTQETRTLTQFHFLSWPAEGTPASTRPLLDFRRKVNKCYRGRSCPIIVHCSDGAGR
TGTYILIDMVLNRMAKGVKEIDIAATLEHVRDQRPGLVRSKDQFEFALTAVAEEVNAILKALPQ

FIG. 2a

GAD65 Underlined aa102-585 Accession No. M74826

MASPGSGFWSFGSEDGSGDSENPGTARAWCQVAQKFTGGIGNKLCALLYGDAEKPAESGGSQPPRAAARKAACACDQKPCS
CSKVDVNYAFLHATDLLPACDGERPTLAFLQDVMNILLQYVVKSFDRSTKVIDFHYPNELLQEYNWELADQPQNLEEILMHC
QTTLKYAIKTGHPRYFNQLSTGLDMVGLAADWLTSTANTNMFTYEIAPVFVLLEYVTLKKMREIIGWPGGSGDGIFSPGGAIS
NMYAMMIARFKMFPEVKEKGMAALPRLIAFTSEHSHFSLKKGAAALGIGTDSVILIKCDERGKMIPSDLERRILEAKQKGFVPF
LVSATAGTTVYGAFDPLLAVADICKKYKIWMHVDAAWGGGLLMSRKHKWKLSGVERANSVTWNPHKMMGVPLQCSALLV
REEGLMQNCNQMHASYLFQQDKHYDLSYDTGDKALQCGRHVDVFKLWLMWRAKGTTGFEAHVDKCLELAEYLYNIIKNR
EGYEMVFDGKPQHTNVCFWYIPPSLRTLEDNEERMSRLSKVAPVIKARMMEYGTTMVSYQPLGDKVNFFRMVISNPAATHQ
DIDFLIEEIERLGQDL

FIG. 2b

Translation Human preproinsulin.
EMBL accession nr. v00565

MALWMRLLPLLALLALWGPDPAAAFVNQHLCGSHLVEALYLVCGERGFFYT
PKTRREAEDLQVGQVELGGGPGAGSLQPLALEGSLQKRGIVEQCCTSICSLYQ
LENYCN

FIG. 2c

EP 0 940 470 A2

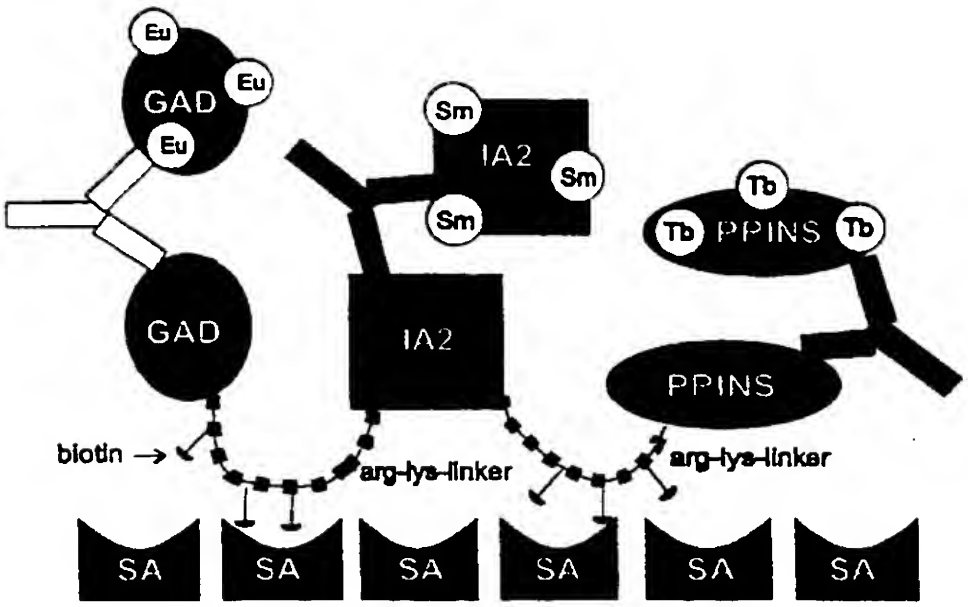
Eu
GAD
Eu
Eu
Sm
IA2
Sm
Sm
Tb
Tb
PPINS
Tb
GAD
IA2
PPINS
biotin
arg-lys-linker
arg-lys-linker
SA
SA
SA
SA
SA
SA

FIG. 3

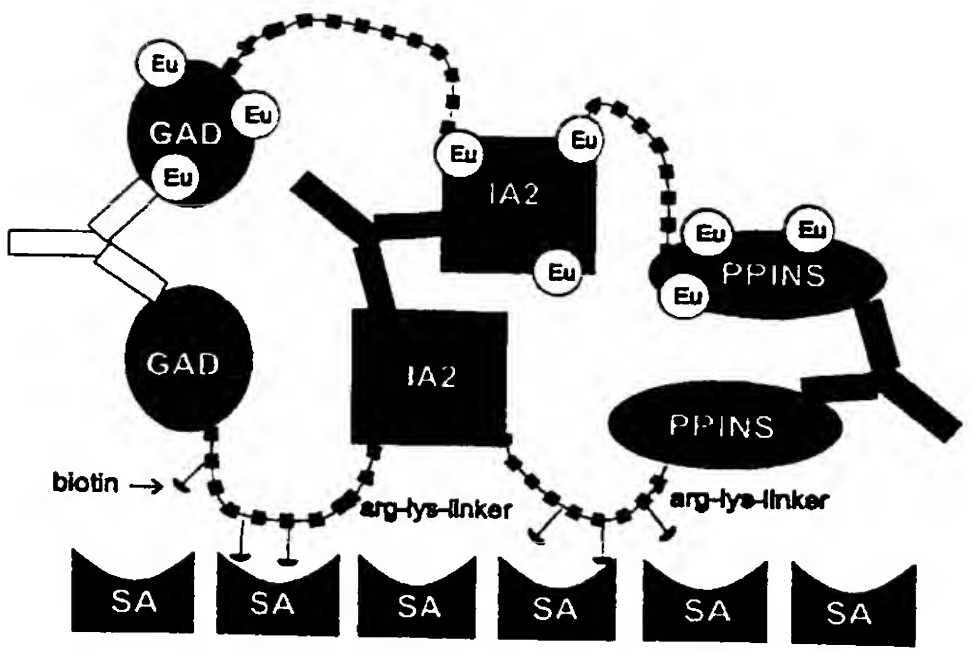
Eu
GAD
Eu
Eu
Eu
IA2
Eu
Eu
Eu
PPINS
Eu
GAD
IA2
PPINS
biotin
arg-lys-linker
arg-lys-linker
SA
SA
SA
SA
SA
SA

FIG. 4